Class is in Session
Making Educational Athletics more than a catch phrase

Numbers Game
A look at the OHSAA’s bottom line and why it is the only one of its kind

The Notebook
News and notes from the OHSAA, including the ODE’s new Pupil Activity Permit, the residency Affidavit, myOHSAA and officiating

Record-setters Margo Geer and Gracie Finnegan lead the state’s best swimmers back to Branin February 24-27
Good Game

Members of the state champion boys bowling squad from Springfield Kenton Ridge (on right) congratulate runner-up Kettering Fairmont on a well-played state tournament last March at Tiki Lanes in Lancaster. In the OHSAA’s fastest-growing sport, the Cougars won the crown by bowling a 246-209-235-217 in the finals. This season, the state bowling tournament heads to Shawnee Lanes in Chillicothe March 5-6.
Fourth-ranked Columbus Africentric rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit to win the 2009 Division IV girls basketball championship, 55-46, over defending champion and second-ranked Berlin Hiland March 21 in Value City Arena. It was a re-match of the 2008 state championship game won by Hiland, 44-37. The 2009 championship marked the Nubians’ second state title, while the Hawks were seeking their fifth crown.
Prior to becoming the commissioner of the OHSAA in August 2004, Dr. Dan Ross served as a school superintendent for 21 years at three districts, including Patrick Henry (1983-86), Pickerington (1986-97) and Avon Lake (1997-2004). He has more than 30 years in education, having served as a superintendent, principal, teacher, counselor, coach and official. Dr. Ross is a native of Portsmouth, Ohio, and graduated from Columbus St. Charles High School in 1967. He received degrees from Ohio Dominican, Xavier and Bowling Green. Dr. Ross was a registered OHSAA official for 20 years and was selected to work state finals games five times in boys basketball and twice in girls basketball while also being certified in volleyball and baseball.

MISSION
The Ohio High School Athletic Association’s mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student’s educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.

COMMITMENT
The Ohio High School Athletic Association is committed to serving its member schools by being the nation’s premier non-profit athletic administration organization.

WE WILL:
• Provide exemplary athletic oversight through swift, fair, consistent and impartial regulatory rulings;
• Operate with openness that generates trust and with strict fiscal accountability;
• Provide impartial, responsive and inclusive leadership;
• Conduct tournaments of nationally recognized excellence; and
• Honor our ultimate purpose, which is to foster lifelong values, good citizenship, ethics and a fair-play approach to life among student-athletes while promoting safe and sporting-like athletic environments.

DEFINING EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS

Of the phrases that are used to illustrate Ohio high school sports — like ‘Respect the Game’ and ‘student-athlete’ — there is one that I use more than most, but it is one that I often must explain after I use it. That phrase is ‘educational athletics.’

So many of our coaches and administrators across Ohio know exactly what that means, but in this day and age when ‘winning at all costs’ or self promotion can be seen all over the television, it cannot be stated enough that educational athletics should be what all of us associated with high school sports put as the focal point of our daily work.

That phrase represents the essence of what high school sports is all about — an extension of the classroom where athletics is a privilege that must be earned and where sportsmanship, character and teamwork are placed above winning and promoting one’s image.

The NCAA has a series of television commercials out right now that end with a young man or woman saying, “There are about 400,000 NCAA student-athletes, and most of us will be going pro in something other than sports.” That certainly can be applied to high school sports. In Ohio, we have approximately 350,000 student-athletes this school year, and less than four percent of the seniors will go on to play sports at the college level. That just underscores the fact that the OHSAA and our member schools should be all about participation and spirit, not just a feeder system to get the most talented athletes to the next level.

Ultimately, the OHSAA hopes that participation in interscholastic sports helps students develop into responsible adults and productive citizens. We expect that all of our coaches, administrators, fans and student-athletes stand beside us in that goal. It can be displayed on the field, on the court, in the gymnasium and in the stands every day. When our young people see responsible actions taken by the adults around them, it will reinforce what is meant by ‘Educational Athletics.’

After all, if we don’t do that, what is it that we are teaching our kids?

Respectfully,

Daniel Ross, Ph.D., OHSAA Commissioner
Ohio High School Athletic Association
As the calendar flipped to January and a new year began, I was reminded of what it means to both have a fresh start and at the same time be in the middle of a long journey.

In a way, every school year presents that situation and those feelings. As president of the Board of Directors of the OHSAA, however, that feeling was stronger than ever as I thought about what we have accomplished so far during the 2009-10 school year, but also what goals the Board would still like to achieve in the coming months.

With so many pressing items facing our schools and the landscape of high school sports, our Board meetings have been energetic and thought-provoking. I know that will continue throughout the winter and spring, and many of the items we have been discussing will go before the membership during the annual referendum process in May. The discussion meetings that will be held around the state and the voting procedure represent a fine exercise of what makes the OHSAA truly a member-driven organization.

Many of our member schools are facing painful cuts, though, and some have already experienced them. In August, we saw the SouthWestern City School District in Central Ohio eliminate all extracurricular activities and witnessed the impact that had on those communities. It was an event that we had hoped would never happen to any of our districts in Ohio, but it is a reality that we must face and learn from. I am pleased that those same voters then reinstituted extracurricular activities in time for the winter sports, but the ripple effect will be felt in OHSAA bylaws to address such a scenario happening again.

While our schools and winter sports teams are experiencing the excitement of the tournament season, I am pleased that the Board continues to push forward on the goals we outlined before the school year began. Some of these include studying more opportunities for junior high sports, implementing a strategic plan, improving technology within the OHSAA office, finding specific ways to promote sportsmanship and, last but not least, evaluating the financial status of the OHSAA. I invite you to read the feature story on pages 10 and 11 of this issue for a closer look at how the OHSAA makes its dollars work for the benefit of all member schools.

As the Board continues our journey during this school year, we also eagerly await the winter sports state tournaments. The chance to see schools, teams and communities come together on a grand stage reminds us all of the importance of our work and our charge to do all that we can to insure the integrity of high school sports in Ohio.

Sincerely,

Steve Stirn, President
OHSAA Board of Directors

OHSAA Board of Directors

Steve Stirn
Board President, Superintendent,
Logan-Hocking Local Schools
(Class AAA Rep., Southeast District)

Rocco Nero
Board Vice President,
Superintendent, Lowellville
Local Schools (Class A Rep.,
Northeast District)

Teresa Alberts
Principal, Sugarcreek
Garaway H.S. (Female Rep.)

Dave Gray
Superintendent,
Pittsburg Franklin Monroe
Local Schools (Class A Rep.,
Southwest District)

Jose Hernandez
Principal, Fremont Ross H.S.
(Ethnic Minority Rep.)

Steve Keller
Principal, Coldwater H.S.
(Class AA Rep.,
Northwest District)

Mike Rotonda
Director of Student
Activities, Columbus City
Schools (Class AAA Rep.,
Central District)

Walt Skaggs
Superintendent, St.
Clairsville-Richland City Schools
(Class AA Rep., East District)

Steve Zimmerman
Athletic Administrator, Cincinnati
Nagel M.S. (7th-8th Grade Rep.)

Matt Shomper
Athletic Administrator, Tipp City
Tippecanoe H.S. (ex-officio,
Ohio Interscholastic Athletic
Administrators Association Rep.)

Jeff Jordan
Director of Finance Program
Services, Ohio Department
of Education (ex-officio, State
Department of Education Rep.)
Lakewood St. Edward’s Collin Palmer finds his mother, Rita, in the stands following his 2009 state wrestling championships victory. The state title marked Palmer’s fourth as he became the 18th four-time state champion in OHSAA history. He won state titles in four different weight classes, including 112, 125, 135 and 140.

Palmer, now a freshman wrestler for Ohio State, helped lead St. Edward to state championships each of his four years, and the Eagles have won 13 titles in a row and 25 overall.

The OHSAA wrestling championships return to The Jerome Schottenstein Center March 4-6.
PHOTO FINISH

Cincinnati St. Xavier’s Evan Schwartz, left, congratulates Joe Albers of Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller following the 100 meter breaststroke at the 2009 OHSAA swimming and diving state championships at Branin Natatorium in Canton. Albers won the race over Schwartz, and Albers also won a state title in the 200 meter individual medley.

The swimming and diving state championships return to Branin February 24-27. With a 2,400 seat capacity, Branin is the largest natatorium in the state and is routinely sold out for the OHSAA state finals.
UNIONTOWN LAKE’S “FIELD OF DREAMS”  
By Katie Botsis, OHSAA Intern

When the Uniontown Lake community embarked on a fundraising program in support of a new football field for the high school, it never imagined the effort would be recognized nationally. Alumni field was one of eight national finalists out of hundreds of applicants for the “Field of Dreams Award” given by the Synthetic Turf Council.

The award recognizes those schools whose artificial turf football field has made a positive impact on the schools, students and the community. Lake High School not only received the award, but also received a donation to support the school as well.

“We were asking the community to raise money to improve the field,” athletic director of Lake High School Bruce Brown said. “So why not make it something the whole community can use and benefit from? And this really has become a community effort on many different levels.”

Brown and the Lake Building Committee interviewed many different artificial turf providers, but eventually narrowed it down to ForeverLawn Inc., a leading manufacturer of artificial turf that has a local presence.

“We chose ForeverLawn for many reasons,” said Brown. “But these guys are right here. They are a local company with a local installation team. So if we ever have problems or need help, they will be right here. That’s a great advantage to have.”

The school started by looking out over 10 years, and considered the cost of the initial investment and weighed it against the maintenance costs of having a natural grass field. Eventually, it was sold on the benefits of an artificial surface.

“We looked at what the annual expenses were for seeding, fertilizing, mowing, stripping and drainage, plus the cost of personnel time, and while it doesn’t entirely pay for the new field, we are definitely saving in that area,” said Brown. “Gym classes now use it, the marching band is now able to practice on it and the youth football teams get to play on it as well. From football to soccer, from players to refs, the people who are on it love it.”

REFERENDUM PROCESS BEGINS

In December, the OHSAA Board of Directors placed 11 items up for referendum vote of the membership, which will take place between May 1 and 15, 2010. The Board may place more items up for vote at future meetings. The OHSAA staff will conduct meetings around the state during the last three weeks of April to explain the items up for vote and meet with the membership. The 11 items up for vote can be found in the December Board meeting highlights at ohsaa.org.

COACHES EDUCATION UPDATE

The Ohio Department of Education has revised the Pupil Activity Application that needs to be completed by all coaches. The new form must be used, as any old forms received by the ODE will result in a reply letter requesting that the new form be submitted. Items that are new to the revised form are:

1. The updated background check information.
2. Listing of the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course as a requirement to coach in Ohio.
3. It is now a requirement that the district superintendent or signing authority signs each application, which brings this application in line with all other applications.

See page 13 for more information and an explanation of the Pupil Activity Permit.

NFHS CONCUSSION BROCHURE POSTED AT OHSAAN.ORG

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) recently published a brochure on the management of concussions and the return to play. The two-page brochure, which addresses sideline decision-making, signs and symptoms, medical clearance and prevention, is posted under the ‘Sports Medicine’ tab at ohsaa.org. The spring edition of OHSAA Magazine will include an in-depth look at concussions.

STATEMENT REGARDING MIDDLE SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

In December, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the OHSAA 7th-8th Grade Committee regarding a statement pertaining to other middle school organizations. The statement is as follows: “The OHSAA has been asked by several member schools to clarify the relationship between the Middle School Athletic Association (MSAA), the Ohio Athletic Committee (OAC) and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). The MSAA and the OAC are not affiliated with the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Participation in events sponsored by the MSAA, the OAC and similar organizations must comply with the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Students participating outside of the OHSAA defined sports seasons in events sponsored by outside organizations would not be covered under the OHSAA catastrophic insurance policy, and any and all participation must be in compliance with all OHSAA non-interscholastic sport participation rules.”
In September, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) published a position statement on supplements from its Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), which strongly opposes the use of dietary supplements for the purpose of athletic advantage.

The committee identified three common myths regarding dietary supplements:

• If a substance is natural, it must be safe and beneficial.
• Athletes who consume a well-balanced diet still have nutritional deficiencies.
• Since dietary supplements may be purchased at a store or over the Internet, they must be safe and legal.

Because of a lack of scientific research addressing the benefits and possible long-term health effects of supplements, particularly in the adolescent age group, the NFHS SMAC discourages the use of supplements. Many of the substances that can be obtained from nutrition stores and the Internet are not subject to the same strict tests and regulations as prescription medications by virtue of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removing dietary supplements from premarket regulation in 1994.

School personnel and coaches should not recommend, endorse or encourage the use of any dietary supplement, drug or medication for performance enhancement. Student-athletes should be encouraged to pursue their goals through hard work and good nutrition, not dietary shortcuts.
**Feature Story**

**OHSAA State Tournament Finances**

2007-08 School Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baseball</strong></td>
<td>$166,935</td>
<td>$162,443</td>
<td>$4,492</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Boys Basketball</strong></td>
<td>$2,403,439</td>
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<td><strong>Girls Basketball</strong></td>
<td>$548,537</td>
<td>$463,035</td>
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<td><strong>Bowling</strong></td>
<td>$9,102</td>
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<td><strong>Field Hockey</strong></td>
<td>$29,939</td>
<td>$29,134</td>
<td>$805</td>
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<td><strong>Football</strong></td>
<td>$4,112,594</td>
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<td><strong>Golf</strong></td>
<td>$2,812</td>
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<td><strong>Ice Hockey</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tennis</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Track and Field</strong></td>
<td>$429,058</td>
<td>$547,608</td>
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<td><strong>Volleyball</strong></td>
<td>$238,778</td>
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<td>$57,607</td>
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<td><strong>Wrestling</strong></td>
<td>$2,572,442</td>
<td>$504,366</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$9,350,431</td>
<td>$6,135,782</td>
<td>$3,214,649</td>
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</table>

Winter’s chill may still have Ohio in its grasp, but the arrival of February means one thing for high school sports in the Buckeye state — it’s tournament time.

Natatoriums, bowling alleys, ice rinks and gymnasiums around Ohio will heat up as student-athletes and coaches set out on a journey that they hope will take them to a state tournament. It is a time when they hope a season’s worth of preparation pays off with a district, regional or state title.

Not coincidentally, it is also a time when the Ohio High School Athletic Association and its six District Athletic Boards take in ticket receipts from sectional, district, regional and state tournament contests that represent 79 percent of the OHSAA’s operating revenue.

The other 21 percent of the operating budget comes from corporate partners (10 percent), officials dues (8 percent), apparel sales (2 percent) and other support (1 percent).

Notice, however, that none of the OHSAA’s income comes from taxes or direct payments from schools, such as annual membership fees or tournament entry fees.

“It has been about 20 years since the OHSAA has charged our member schools a membership fee or a tournament entry fee,” OHSAA Commissioner Dr. Dan Ross said. “And we don’t plan on going back to having those kinds of fees.”

It is part of what makes Ohio and the OHSAA’s revenue structure unique. So unique, in fact, that no other state in the nation can boast of having all five of these financial benefits:

- No annual membership fee.
- No tournament entry fee.
- No catastrophic insurance fee ($700,000 annual cost paid by OHSAA).
- Reimbursement for some school tournament expenses.
- Schools may keep a portion of presale ticket revenue from some regional and state tournament participation.

“As the turnover rate has increased among athletic administrators, especially in light of the demands of the job, many current athletic administrators are not aware of these five benefits and how exclusive they are to Ohio,” said OHSAA Assistant Commissioner Jerry Snodgrass, who served 31 years as a coach and athletic director.

“This commitment also lends itself to reviewing — and in some cases restructuring — how we conduct our tournaments to keep this commitment to our schools.”

But when 79 percent of the OHSAA’s operating budget comes from ticket receipts at its regional and state tournaments, a dilemma has been created by shrinking attendance numbers at some state tournaments — most notably the two highest revenue-generating sports: football and boys basketball.

Many state associations around the country have been forced to make drastic changes, including eliminating sports, shortening seasons, dropping top tier state tournament venues and cutting reimbursements. In Ohio, a state blessed with tremendous tradition and support for high school sports, the OHSAA’s bottom line has luckily not reached emergency status, but it is a situation that continues to be monitored closely.

Take football, for example. In 2001, the combined attendance for the six football state championship games was 65,663. In 2009, attendance dipped to 41,078. In fact, declining attendance is being felt during all five rounds of the football tournaments. In 2001, the total attendance was 811,409. In 2008, total attendance dipped to 516,466 — a 36-percent drop.

Large crowds at the football and boys basketball state tournaments help the OHSAA fund all 24 of its championships.
It is a trend that concerns the OHSAA and impacts the association's ability to administer all its sports, not just football.

“People need to remember that the $10 ticket they buy to watch a state championship football game not only covers the expenses for football, but also goes to help pay for the tennis state tournaments and the gymnastics state tournament, and so on,” Ross said.

Expenses for regional and state tournaments include officials fees, facility rental, team expenses, programs and game personnel such as police, security, ticket sellers, custodians, etc.

In a sport like track and field, for example, the operating costs add up quickly. During the spring of 2008, expenses for the regional and state track and field tournaments totaled $547,608. Gate receipts were $429,058, meaning a loss of $118,550 was absorbed by the OHSAA.

The reimbursement of travel expenses is one of the most costly expenditures of a tournament. At the state level in basketball, travel dollars paid to cheerleaders, etc.

During the 2008-09 school year, the OHSAA reimbursed schools $1.9 million for tournament-related expenses. To help keep the OHSAA’s budget unchanged for the 2009-10 school year and avoid significant cuts to several programs, travel expenses in “individual” sports at the state tournament except wrestling were eliminated. Those sports are golf, tennis, cross country, swimming and diving, bowling, gymnastics and track and field, where hundreds of participants qualify for the state tournament, thus making travel reimbursements extremely high.

Many schools reap the benefits of presale tickets to the regional and state tournaments. In basketball, for example, schools keep 15 percent of all presale tickets when a community like Wapakoneta in western Ohio advances to a state tournament, it is a win-win situation for the school and the OHSAA.

“We had lines of people out the door to buy tickets for the state semifinal game,” said Brad Rex, the athletic director at Wapakoneta, describing the scene when the Redskins’ girls basketball team won a regional title in 2009. “We sold more than 2,700 tickets for our semifinal game and nearly 2,400 for our semifinal game and nearly 2,400 tickets for the state semifinal game. When we got the check from the OHSAA, it was equivalent to five or six of our home games. In this day and age, that really helps and was a big benefit to our school.”

While communities like Wapakoneta still exist all over the state, the fact remains that declining attendance at state tournaments is real. Among the many possible factors are increasingly busy schedules and added entertainment options, but whatever the reason, when 79 percent of the OHSAA’s budget comes from attendance, it is a situation that will continue to be evaluated.

By Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Information Services

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### Revenue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue: $11,778,382</th>
<th>Where the money comes from</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Support $2,427,951 (21%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Partners $1,124,100 (10%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officials Dues $984,788 (8%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apparel Sales $185,981 (2%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Other Support $133,082 (1%)</td>
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</table>

### Tournament Revenue:

| Tournament Revenue $9,350,431 (79%) |
| Football $4,112,594 (35%) |
| Boys Basketball $2,403,439 (20%) |
| Wrestling $672,442 (6%) |
| Girls Basketball $548,537 (5%) |
| Track and Field $429,058 (4%) |
| Soccer $256,286 (2%) |
| Volleyball $238,778 (2%) |
| All Other Sports Combined $689,297 (6%) |

### Expenses:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expenses $11,510,450</th>
<th>Where the money goes</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>General &amp; Administrative Expenses $5,328,504 (46%)</td>
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<td>Insurance $1,036,097 (9%)</td>
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<td>Commissioners Salaries $728,971 (6%)</td>
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<td>Salaries &amp; Wages $645,815 (6%)</td>
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<td>Rules Books/Officials Meetings $513,837 (4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll Taxes &amp; Benefits $385,666 (3%)</td>
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<td>Consultant Fees $323,472 (3%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Other Expenses $1,694,646 (15%)</td>
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</table>

### Tournament Expenses:

| Tournament Expenses $6,166,839 (54%) |
| Football $2,462,770 (21%) |
| Boys Basketball $878,769 (8%) |
| Track and Field $547,608 (5%) |
| Wrestling $504,366 (4%) |
| Girls Basketball $463,035 (4%) |
| Soccer $214,591 (2%) |
| Volleyball $181,171 (2%) |
| All Other Sports Combined $814,530 (7%) |
Establishing proof of the parents’ residency is necessary in order for a student to use Exception 1 of the interdistrict transfer Bylaw 4-7-2 to establish eligibility in an Ohio member school. A two-page legal document called the Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence is a key piece of information that the OHSAA uses to determine transfer eligibility.

Administrators in multi-high school districts should note that Exception 1 of transfer Bylaw 4-7-4 has a similar requirement of a bona fide move of parents into a new attendance zone within a school district that has more than one high school. The affidavit is not required to approve this transfer, but the superintendent of the district must request an eligibility ruling under 4-7-4 prior to the student’s participation in a contest.

Now, when a change in the parents’ residency takes place that moves a student-athlete into a new school district, the affidavit is a requirement in order to approve the transfer.

In May of 2009 during the annual referendum voting process, member schools voted to adopt a change in Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 1 that mandates the submission of a fully completed Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence whenever a change of residency takes place which results in a transfer of schools for the student. Previously, the affidavit was only necessary when residency was questioned by a school or the OHSAA.

Associate Commissioner for Eligibility Dr. Deborah Moore and Assistant Commissioner Roxanne Price are the OHSAA’s experts in working with the Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence. They are charged with the task of evaluating and validating all affidavits that are submitted to the OHSAA.

“School administrators cannot permit a transfer student whose parents have moved into your school district to participate in a contest without an official ruling of eligibility from the OHSAA,” Price said. “The affidavit is what we use to make that ruling.” A contest is defined as a game, meet, match, preview or scrimmage and is described further in item 21 of the general sports regulations.

“Filling out the affidavit completely and accurately is very important,” Moore said. “When a line is left blank or is not consistent with other pieces of information, that slows down the process of granting eligibility and raises a red flag.”

Moore and Price developed a series of steps that school administrators should take when a student-athlete moves into their district. The complete text is posted at the ‘Eligibility’ section of the OHSAA website. Some of the tips include:

- Arrange for a conference with the parents to complete page one of the affidavit, which identifies the requirements for the parents.
- Ensure that the parents realize they must live in the new school district for at least one year and that a move into an apartment/residence by a parent that is not intended to be permanent, as evidenced by the fact that the previous residence is maintained, shall not be considered a bona fide move.
- Instruct the parent to take the affidavit (pages 2 and 3 of the OHSAA form) to a notary public for completion. They must produce a driver’s license, voter registration and all other documentation requested by the notary.
- Fax the document to the OHSAA, attention Deborah Moore or Roxanne Price. Upon receipt of a complete and accurate affidavit, the OHSAA will issue a letter approving eligibility.

Note that Exception 1 of Bylaw 4-7-2 does not apply to incoming ninth graders and students whose parents are moving into Ohio for the first time. In those two cases, students are automatically eligible insofar as transfer is concerned.

The Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence is posted at [www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/Affidavit-BonaFideResidence.pdf](http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/Affidavit-BonaFideResidence.pdf).
The Ohio Department of Education requires that all coaches have a valid pupil activity permit. Effective January 1, 2010, the application for this permit has changed.

Effective January 1, 2010, the application form for the ODE pupil activity permit requires the signature of the employing superintendent — the same individual who signs other types of licensure applications requiring a superintendent’s signature. This permit is issued to individuals who are engaged by Ohio school districts to direct, supervise or coach a pupil activity program involving athletics, and routine or regular physical activity with health and safety considerations.

Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3301-27-01 – which outlines the qualifications to direct, supervise or coach a pupil activity program – was amended in October 2009. It requires school districts to ensure that applicants for pupil activity permits are in compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

These requirements include up-to-date cardiopulmonary resuscitation training and completion of the new Fundamentals of Coaching course provided by the National Federation of State High School Associations through the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

The addition of the superintendent signature to the application form establishes a connection between the permit applicant and the school district that is responsible for ensuring the applicant’s compliance with the OAC.

Questions about the new application form or the pupil activity permit may be directed to the Office of Educator Licensure at 614-466-3593.
Launched in 2007, the myOHSAA technology system, a comprehensive and integrated web-based data storage and access system, continues to improve and develop to better meet the needs of its users. The system is designed so that the OHSAA, schools, contest officials, the media and the general public can access and share information added to the system.

Currently, there are three major features in development: a public schedule interface, a data bridge and a user management section redesign.

The public schedule interface will be the home for schedules in every sport from every OHSAA member school. Parents, fans and media will be able to view dates, times, opponents, scores and directions to every contest entered into the myOHSAA system. Additionally, a piece will be developed to allow selected users to receive text messages or emails when changes are made to a schedule such as a cancellation or a site change.

The groundwork has been laid for an Application Programming Interface (API) that will allow events entered into third-party scheduling software to be imported directly into myOHSAA. This data bridge will allow member schools to continue to use their existing scheduling software and help to reduce their workload while meeting OHSAA membership requirements.

Lastly, phase two of the user management portion of the system is set to go into production. The new features will allow administrators to better define user access to different areas of a school’s interface and unify login credentials for those administrators who cover more than one school. It will also allow central scheduling offices to manage events for multiple schools.

By Brian Day, OHSAA Intern

ROBIN SPILLER

Athletic director and assistant principal of her alma mater Northmont High School in Clayton, Robin Spiller has played an instrumental role in promoting girls athletics not only in her school but across the state as well.

After receiving degrees from Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Dayton, Spiller became one of the first female coaches at Northmont. She led the softball team for 18 years and also spent time as an assistant for the volleyball and girls basketball teams. Spiller was one of the leaders in forming the Fast-Pitch Softball Coaches Association and was elected to the organization’s Hall of Fame in 1993 for her efforts.

Spiller currently oversees 20 varsity sports and about 600 student-athletes as Northmont’s athletic director a position she has held for the past 13 years. She is a big proponent of teaching sportsmanship and citizenship through athletics and preaches the “student first, athlete second” philosophy to all her students and coaches.

“I love seeing students perform outside the classroom in something they have a real passion for,” said Spiller. “The maturation of the students from the time they enter the school in the 9th grade until they leave four years later is fun to see and I think athletics plays a major role in that.”

In a field that has a rather high rate of turnover, Spiller credits keeping her family and work priorities straight as one of her keys to success.

“My advice for new or young athletic directors is to strike a balance between work life and family life,” suggests Spiller. “Allow others to help you out and don’t try to do everything by yourself. Otherwise, burnout sets in pretty quickly.”

By Brian Day, OHSAA Intern

Senior Tess Sito pitched a 2-hitter and reached base three times to help lead Elyria to the 2009 Division I softball crown.
HOW TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS ARE SELECTED
Ratings and Votes from Administrators Combine to Select Officials

By Sarah Wilcox, OHSAA Intern

Every winter season, teams and individuals from schools all across the state take to the courts, mats, alleys, rinks and pools with a dream of extending their season by advancing as far as possible in their respective state tournaments. Officials do the same. Most officials have a desire to officiate at the highest level of high school sports, and like student-athletes, it takes many years of practice and experience to achieve that goal.

Although most officials want to officiate tournament games, there are many misconceptions on how officials are selected and assigned to games. The assigning for winter sports tournaments through the district level is overseen by the OHSAA District Athletic Boards, but many other people are involved, including coaches, athletic directors, assigners and OHSAA staff and commissioners. OHSAA administrators take over the selection of officials for the regional and state levels.

Tournament officials are assigned based on ratings and votes from those involved in their sport. All head coaches of varsity teams are required to rate officials. The rating is a 1-5 scale, with five being the highest a coach can rate an official. All coaches ratings are then averaged to get that official’s “rating.” This rating becomes a multiplier later in the selection process.

Athletic directors, assigners, local associations and athletic board members then “vote” for officials. These people are given a limited number of votes to vote for whomever they wish. These votes are then added together to get an officials total number of votes. The votes and rankings gathered after the season will be used in the next year’s tournament selection process. For example, when selecting officials for the 2009-2010 tournaments, the votes and rankings from the 2008-2009 season will be used. It is important to note that the local associations with an extremely large number of officials are given more votes than some of the smaller associations.

The ratings of the officials are then multiplied by the number of votes they received. The officials are then ranked by this final number. From this list of officials and their final rankings, twice the number of needed officials are taken off the top to become the pool of officials that will receive tournament applications.

When the pool of officials is populated, these officials receive an application on their myOHSAA account. They also receive an e-mail asking them to fill out an application. These applications are used as a way to make sure there is a desire to officiate in the tournament and also to make sure that officials are still eligible and available. In order to officiate a tournament game, an official must have officiated a minimum number of regular-season games, participated in their local and state meetings, not be a coach or assigner to work the regional or state level, and fulfill a couple of other requirements. Officials selected as part of the tournament pool but who fail to fill out applications or will not meet requirements are then taken out of this pool.

The list of eligible officials is then sent out to the District Athletic Boards to assign for sectional and district games. Regional and state assignments are made by Henry Zaborniak, Assistant Commissioner at the OHSAA. State tournament assignments are made proportionally to the number of officials in each district. For example, if 20 percent of all basketball officials in Ohio come from the East District, 20 percent of the officials officiating the state tournament will be from the East District. Officials are also not permitted or assigned to work consecutive state tournament assignments.

Gymnastics officials apply through the OHSAA office to judge the state gymnastics competition. Eligible and available officials are selected by the state interpreters based on the official’s National Association of Women’s Gymnastics Judging rating. These selections are then approved by the OHSAA’s gymnastics liaison, Deborah B. Moore, Ph.D.

Officials who wish to one day officiate tournament games are encouraged to keep improving their officiating skills. Experience, skill and love of the game are the three quickest ways to become a playoff-level official.
**Winter Championships**

**WHAT:** Boys & Girls Swimming & Diving  
**WHEN:** February 24-25 (Diving) and February 26-27 (Swimming)  
**WHERE:** C.T. Branin Natatorium, Canton

**ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** The 2010 state swimming and diving championships return to C.T. Branin Natatorium in Canton after the OHSAA signed a 10-year contract extension with Canton City Schools last December. The facility, which has hosted the boys finals since 1976 and the girls finals since 1980, seats up to 2,400 spectators with an additional 1,000 on the pool deck. Last year’s championships saw Upper Arlington win its fifth straight girls state title in Div. I, while Gates Mills Hawken won the Div. II title for its 13th state title in the last 14 years. Cincinnati St. Xavier was atop the boys podium for a state-record 30th time in Div. I while Hunting Valley University School won the first ever boys Div. II state swimming and diving championship. Sectional meets begin the week of February 8 leading up to the 83rd annual boys and the 34th annual girls state swimming and diving tournament.

**WHAT:** Wrestling  
**WHEN:** March 4-6  
**WHERE:** Value City Arena at the Jerome Schottenstein Center, Ohio State University, Columbus

**ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** The 73rd annual state wrestling tournament will be held at Value City Arena on the campus of The Ohio State University for the 12th consecutive year. Since the championships moved to the arena in 1999, an average of over 71,000 fans have turned out to watch the three-day event each year. The tournament consists of 1,260 matches over five sessions, one Thursday and two on both Friday and Saturday. In 2009, Lakewood St. Edward won its 13th straight and 25th overall Div. I state title, while St. Paris Graham (Div. II) and Troy Christian (Div. III) also repeated. Sectional tournaments begin the week of February 15.

**WHAT:** Boys & Girls Bowling  
**WHEN:** March 5-6  
**WHERE:** Shawnee Lanes, Chillicothe

**ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** The youngest of the OHSAA state tournaments, the fourth annual state bowling championships move to Shawnee Lanes in Chillicothe in 2010 after being held at Tiki Lanes in Lancaster its first three years. The boys finals will be held Friday, March 5, while the girls will bowl Saturday, March 6. Bowlers from the western part of the state have seen early success in OHSAA tournament play and 2009 was no different as Springfield Kenton Ridge took home the boys title and Pemberville Eastwood won the girls crown. Chase Carter of Riverside Stebbins and Alicia Benson of Troy were the individual medalists. Sectional bowling begins the week of February 14.
**WHAT:** Boys Basketball  
**WHEN:** March 25-27  
**WHERE:** Value City Arena at the Jerome Schottenstein Center, Ohio State University, Columbus

**ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Beginning with Lorain and Plattsburg in 1923, 235 boys state basketball championships have been handed out with four more to be won in 2010 at the 88th annual boys state basketball tournament. Like it has since 1999, Value City Arena on the campus of The Ohio State University will play host. Semifinals are played Thursday and Friday, while the finals will be held Saturday. This year, the divisional rotation of play is Div. III, II, IV and then Div. I. A year ago, Columbus Northland (Div. I), Cleveland Central Catholic (Div. III) and Oak Hill (Div. IV) were crowned state champions for the first time in boys basketball, while Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary (Div. II) won its fifth championship. Sectional tournaments will begin the week of February 14.

**WHAT:** Girls Basketball  
**WHEN:** March 18-20  
**WHERE:** Value City Arena at the Jerome Schottenstein Center, Ohio State University, Columbus

**ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** The 2010 state girls basketball championships will be the 35th edition of the tournament. It will be played once again in Columbus, where the tournament has been held every year with the exception of 1986 when it moved to Akron. The order of play at the 2010 state championships will be Div. III, Div. II, Div. IV, followed by Div. I. Cincinnati Mount Notre Dame won its fourth straight Div. I title in 2009, while South Euclid Regina claimed the Div. III crown to give the school its sixth state championship, matching the Royals with Pickerington Central for most girls basketball state titles. Shaker Heights Hathaway Brown (Div. II) and Columbus Africentric Early College (Div. IV) also won championships in 2009. Sectional play begins the week of February 15.

**WHAT:** Ice Hockey  
**WHEN:** March 13-14  
**WHERE:** Nationwide Arena, Columbus

**ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Nationwide Arena, home of the National Hockey League’s Columbus Blue Jackets, will host the 33rd annual state ice hockey tournament for the eighth consecutive year. Semifinals will be played Saturday, March 13, while the finals will be held the following day. Hunting Valley University School defeated Toledo St. John’s Jesuit in 2009 to claim its second state ice hockey title. District tournaments, held in Brooklyn, Kent, Sylvania and Columbus, begin play the week of February 14.

**WHAT:** Gymnastics  
**WHEN:** March 5-6  
**WHERE:** Hilliard Bradley High School

**ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** After spending four years at Hilliard Darby High School, the state gymnastics tournament will move to Hilliard Bradley High School, the newest high school in the Hilliard district. Team competition will be held Friday, March 5, while individual competition is Saturday, March 6. Medals are handed out during the individual competition in the following events: uneven parallel bars, floor exercise, vault, balance beam and all-around. In 2009, Brecksville-Broadview Heights won its ninth team state title overall and sixth in a row, while Rocky River Magnificat sophomore Kelly Nortz shined in the individual competition, winning four out of the five events. District gymnastics begins the week of February 14 leading up to the 38th annual state tournament.
NO SOPHOMORE SLUMP

OHSAA Service Week Sees Early Success

During its second year, the OHSAA Service Week has organized several community service projects with schools across the state.

By Katie Botsis, OHSAA Intern

After a successful inaugural year in 2008, the Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation’s Service Week was at it again in 2009. The Service Week initiative, which conducted its first full campaign last year, encourages member schools to become involved in community service projects and ran this year from November 18 to December 5.

Schools which elected to participate were allowed to play a “Foundation Basketball Game” in conjunction with the efforts put forth by the students, coaches, teachers and community members. The Foundation games count as one of the five scrimmages allowed by the OHSAA, but can be played under regulation game conditions and do not count toward the team’s record.

Last year’s Service Week featured 136 events and over 250 participating schools. The nearly $250,000 raised went to benefit organizations such as the American Red Cross, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Ronald McDonald House and St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, among others.

“We were overwhelmed by the efforts of the students, athletic administrators, coaches, officials and volunteers to give to others at a time when so many need our help,” said Kim Mahoney with the OHSAA Foundation.

One of the events highlighting last year’s success was Lebanon High School’s Basketball for Food event. With their efforts, the community raised over 23,000 pounds of food and $5,000 that was donated to the Warren County Food Bank. The players, cheerleaders and band members made it a district-wide event by holding pep rallies at the elementary and middle schools and collecting donations outside local grocery stores.

This year, Lebanon High School teamed up with Franklin High School in their Foundation Game held Friday, November 27. The goal for the event was to collect 30,000 pounds of food and fans were asked to bring a canned good as admission to the game.

“It’s a great way for the kids and the community to come together and provide a service, especially around the holidays,” said Pat Murphy, head basketball coach at Lebanon High School.

Several other games which benefitted local food banks were scheduled near the holiday weekend, including West Chester Lakota West and Cincinnati McAuley, Cincinnati Mariemont and Cincinnati Turpin, and Painesville Harvey and Wooster Triway, which all played Foundation Games the day before Thanksgiving.

One group that benefitted from several of this year’s Foundation Games isn’t a nationally known organization, but the story is just as important. Over 12 teams participated in games played on Friday, November 20, where some or all of the proceeds benefitted the Rossman family.

Greg Rossman is the athletic director for Ridgedale High School in Morral and his son Lincoln, born prematurely and weighing under two pounds at birth, has spent the last eight months battling numerous health issues related to his premature birth. The medical bills now total nearly $3 million.

Although a grand total has not yet been submitted, Colonel Crawford Athletic Director Dave Sheldon reported that more than $3,700 was collected for the Rossman family.

“It was a great night with lots of support from people willing to help our family,” said Rossman. “Communities can really pull together to help each other. Friday was evidence of that.”

A set of eight games were also scheduled between the Federal League Athletic Association and the Northeastern Buckeye Conference with proceeds benefitting the Hoops 4 Healing Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes awareness and education for organ donation and liver disease.

The growth of the Foundation Games is evident by the numbers. This year over 300 schools participated in more than 175 events with dozens of charities and organizations benefitting.

“It is a wonderful educational experience for the students and we are thrilled to see the growth in participation this year,” said Mahoney.

For more information on the OHSAA Foundation, please visit www.ohsaafoundation.org.
You know the saying “A picture is worth a thousand words,” and one of the best places to apply this concept is in the high school environment. Using relevant graphics, photos and design, with school colors and inspirational themes, you can inject interest and engage students throughout your school’s environment.

From halls and walls, to fences and fields, a SFC Team Graphics Program can deliver a lasting, meaningful and memorable experience to all who compete at, attend and visit your facility. Graphics can be used to attract, excite and encourage students and athletes, and can create an advantage that lets parents, fans and visitors know they’ve arrived someplace special.

“These colorful improvements require no construction or structural enhancements, so they are more affordable and create instant school spirit and fresh décor,” said Hugh Benning, Director of Campus Programs for SFC Graphics, a leading provider of these colorful campus programs for high schools, colleges and universities. The company has been adding color to commerce for over 100 years and continues to push the envelope when it comes to custom décor, lean production and high-definition imaging.

According to Jeffrey M. Stanton, principal of North Olmsted High School, “The graphics we put on our gym wall are truly amazing. They helped reshape the entire image of our gymnasium and enhanced the pride of our school. I would recommend this to other schools without hesitation.”

SFC Graphics is based in Toledo, Ohio. For further information on SFC Graphics, and their products contact Hugh Benning at 800-537-1130 or www.SFCteamGraphics.com.

The OHSAA is proud to have the American Dairy Association Mideast (ADA) as partner and Chocolate Milk as the “Official Beverage” of Ohio high school sports. Through the partnership, American Dairy Association is promoting the nutritional benefits of chocolate milk through its Refuel with Chocolate Milk campaign.

Most recently, chocolate milk was promoted at the OHSAA Football Championships where fans had the opportunity to win Cleveland Browns merchandise autographed by offensive lineman Joe Thomas. The winners received a Refuel with Chocolate Milk gift pack which included the autographed item and other fun promotional items. The following individuals were winners in the drawing:

- Richard Kirker, Twinsburg, Ohio – Autographed football
- Rem Weber, Chagrin Falls, Ohio – Autographed football
- Sarah Pfeifer, Strongsville, Ohio – Autographed jersey
- Matthew Holsinger, Carey, Ohio – Autographed jersey
- Jim Weber, Navarre, Ohio – Autographed helmet
- Joe Ramsey, Louisville, Ohio – Autographed helmet

Refuel with Chocolate Milk towels and sling bags were also distributed to fans and athletes at the fall championships for soccer, cross country and football. Look for chocolate milk at the upcoming winter championship games.

For more information about Refuel with Chocolate Milk, become a fan at www.facebook.com/refuelyourbody.

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Where?
Our games should be played locally. There's plenty of healthy competition where kids can learn and grow through athletics in most of our backyards. We don't need national schedules to accomplish our purposes.

Why?
Because it's the right way to do it. Schools offer these programs because they enhance the educational experience of the young people who participate.

Spring Championships

What: Baseball
When: Thursday, June 3–Saturday, June 5
Where: Huntington Park, Columbus

About the Championships: The 83rd Annual Baseball State Tournament will be held at Huntington Park in Columbus, Ohio for the second consecutive year. Thursday will feature state semifinal games for Divisions III and IV while Division I and II state semifinal games will be played on Friday. Saturday's state championship games will start at 10:00 a.m. with the Division IV game followed by the Division III game at 1:00 p.m., Division I at 4:00 p.m. and Division II at 7:00 p.m. Winners from last year include Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller (Div. I), Chardon Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin (Div. II), Gnadenhutten Indian Valley (Div. III) and Hamler Patrick Henry (Div. IV). It marked the first title for Indian Valley, while Moeller earned its fifth state title.

What: Softball
When: Thursday, June 3–Saturday, June 5
Where: Firestone Stadium, Akron

About the Championships: The 32nd Annual State Softball Tournament will be held for the third consecutive year at the Akron Firestone Stadium and, thanks to approval by the OHSAA Board of Directors, Akron will play host through 2017. In June the Board unanimously approved to extend the initial three-year contract to 10 years. This year’s three-day tournament will feature Division II and Division I semifinal games on Thursday and Division IV and Division III semifinal games on Friday. The Division II state final game will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday followed by the Division I game at 1:00 p.m., Division IV at 4:00 p.m. and concludes with the Division III game at 7:00 p.m. Elyria (Div. I), Hamilton Ross (Div. II), Hebron Lakewood (Div. III) and Strasburg-Franklin (Div. IV) were all crowned state champions in 2009.

What: Boys and Girls Track & Field
When: Friday, June 4–Saturday, June 5
Where: Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium, Ohio State University, Columbus

About the Championships: The longest running boys and girls state tournaments will enter their 103rd and 36th years respectively, when the state track & field tournaments are held at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium on the Ohio State campus this spring. The two-day tournament will feature a total of 34 events, 17 for each boys and girls, for all three divisions. In 2009 Gahanna Lincoln, Pemberville Eastwood and Garfield Heights Trinity all took home state titles in the boys divisions. Reynoldsburg and Gates Mills Gilmour Academy won the Division I and Division III titles respectively while Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy and Columbus Bishop Hartley split the Division II title. The track & field season opens March 8.

What: Boys Tennis
When: Friday May 28–Saturday, May 29
Where: Stickney Tennis Center, Ohio State University, Columbus

About the Championships: The second longest tenured OHSAA tournament, boys tennis, has been handing out hardware since 1920. The Stickney Tennis Center on the campus of Ohio State will again play host for 2010. Unlike most other OHSAA tournaments, no team champion is crowned in tennis, but rather awards are handed out to the top singles and doubles player in the state. All four winners in 2009 were first time champions including singles winners Peter Kobelt of New Albany and Cincinnati Country Day’s Joey Fritz. The boys tennis season begins March 29.
OHSAA ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS

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Nancy Poliseno, President
2010 Conference and Trade Show: Feb. 18-19, Columbus Renaissance Hotel

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Web Site: www.oaesaa.org
Dr. Julie Davis, Executive Director
Lucy Oztat, Member Services Director

OHSAA COACHES ASSOCIATION

OHIO INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION
President-Dan Adams (John Glenn H.S.)
www.oiaaa.org

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION
President-Chris Smith
www.ohsbca.org

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION
President-Wally Vickers (Lakota East H.S.)
www.ohiobkcoaches.com

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING COACHES ASSOCIATION
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Sharing Time

Chesterland West Geauga junior Allison Tyree reaches for the baton during the Division I 4x400-meter relay finals at the 2009 OHSAA Track and Field State Championships. The two-day event drew more than 26,000 fans to Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium on the campus of The Ohio State University. The track and field finals return to Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium June 4 and 5.